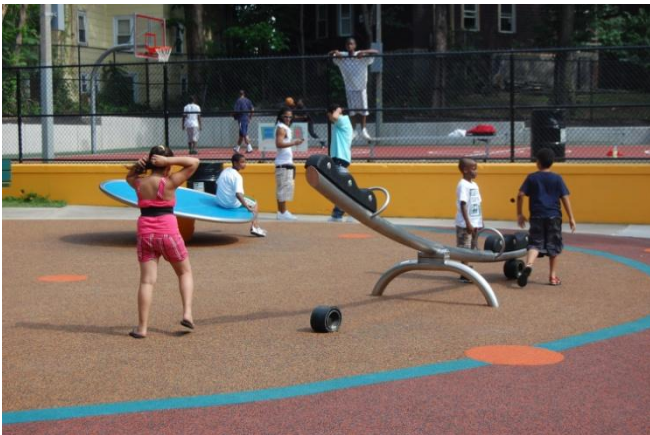


Division of Conservation Services

FY13 LAND and PARC
How-to Workshop

DCS Grant Programs

- ▶ **Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND)** (formerly the Self-Help Program)
 - acquire conservation land
- ▶ **Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC)** (formerly the Urban Self-Help Program) – acquire recreation land and/or develop public outdoor recreation facilities



Dennis Street Park, Boston



CSA Farm, Easthampton

Secretary Sullivan's Letter

- ▶ Grant announcement is in anticipation of funding
- ▶ Priorities for the FY13 Grant Round:
 - ▶ Conservation Projects (LAND):
 - ▶ Biodiversity protection (BioMap 2)
 - ▶ Outdoor passive recreation
 - ▶ Working lands
 - ▶ Recreation Projects (PARC):
 - ▶ New park development, especially on parkland recovered from brownfield site clean-up
 - ▶ Projects that serve to stabilize neighborhoods or are part of urban center revitalization
 - ▶ Projects that provide for park equity



LAND and PARC Grant Information

- ▶ Grant deadline July 12, 2012 at 3:00 pm
- ▶ Applicants must have *current* Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) on file with DCS by grant deadline
- ▶ Applicants with outstanding conversion issues are ineligible
- ▶ Maximum grant award of \$400,000
- ▶ Reimbursement rate between 52 and 70%



LAND and PARC Grant Information

- ▶ Download an application package – fillable pdf available at www.mass.gov/eea/dcs-grants
- ▶ Do not purchase land without signed contract!
- ▶ Do not begin construction without signed contract!



Creekside Common, Chelsea



Eligible Project Costs

- ▶ For LAND & PARC acquisition projects:
 - ▶ Property purchase
 - ▶ Title certification
 - ▶ Recording fees
 - ▶ Survey
- ▶ For PARC renovation/development projects:
 - ▶ Engineering
 - ▶ Design
 - ▶ Construction
 - ▶ Construction supervision
- ▶ Municipality must approve 100% of costs (shown in municipal vote)
- ▶ May use some federal monies, such as CDBG, as local portion of total grant costs



Ineligible Project Costs

- ▶ Donations
- ▶ In-kind expenses
- ▶ Legal fees
- ▶ Staff time
- ▶ Equipment or goods
- ▶ Application preparation costs
- ▶ 21E assessment and compliance fees
- ▶ Brownfields restoration
- ▶ Appraisals
- ▶ And everything else not listed as eligible!



Selection Process for DCS Grants

- ▶ All projects are visited by DCS staff, then rated and ranked (rating system is included in each grant's application package)
- ▶ Recommendations are approved by EEA
- ▶ Anticipated grant award announcement date is November 2012 (this is an estimate)
- ▶ Project completion date will be June 1, 2013 for acquisition projects, June 1, 2014 for construction projects



Rating System

- ▶ Two rating systems – one for LAND, one for PARC
- ▶ Each contain demographic information
 - ▶ Federal census data
 - ▶ Environmental Justice
- ▶ Do not score yourself – DCS develops the demographic scores with data from the Department of Economic Development



Windrush Farm, North Andover



Municipal Votes

- ▶ All projects must have a town meeting or city council vote
 - ▶ The vote must do three things:
 - ▶ Authorize grant application
 - ▶ Approve appropriation of 100% of the total project cost
 - ▶ Dedicate the land to recreation or conservation purposes
 - ▶ Sample vote language is in application package – please base your community's vote on this
 - ▶ **Send all draft vote language to Celia or Melissa for approval**
 - ▶ Vote can occur after application deadline and/or after grant decisions have been announced
-



Post-completion Responsibilities

- ▶ All sites that receive LAND or PARC funding are protected by Article 97, which means the land must remain as conservation or recreation land in perpetuity
- ▶ Site must be open to all – this includes both non-residents and the handicapped
- ▶ Fair fee policy
- ▶ Sign requirements



St. Mary & St. Scholastica CR, Petersham

Useful Tips

- ▶ No binders, folders, plastic sleeves, etc. – use binder clips to fasten applications together
 - ▶ 1 original and 2 copies – clearly mark the copies
 - ▶ Double-sided copies, please!
 - ▶ Clearly mark all attachments – use the application form as an attachment checklist
 - ▶ Maintain the format of the application form by using the fillable pdf – this isn't the time to use your favorite font
 - ▶ If your community is re-submitting a previous application, be sure that you submit current list of attachments
 - ▶ Focus on the big picture – if one thing is filled in incorrectly, the application will (most likely) still be eligible
-



PARC Projects

- ▶ Purchase parkland
- ▶ Develop new public outdoor recreation facilities
- ▶ Renovate existing municipal public parks
- ▶ Land must be dedicated to public park purposes and under custody of Park or Recreation Commission or Park Department



Brown Square, Newburyport

PARC Grants

- ▶ All cities regardless of size or towns with more than 35,000 residents are eligible for maximum \$400,000 grant award
 - ▶ Towns with less than 35,000 residents proposing project with access to public transportation or 100 car parking lot are also eligible for maximum \$400,000 grant award
 - ▶ All other town projects are eligible for maximum \$50,000 grant award (this is referred to as a “small town” grant)
 - ▶ Note that “small town” grants are rated with all other projects – this is not a separate grant program
 - ▶ Letters of support deadline – postmarked by July 19, 2012
-



PARC Application Tips

- ▶ Complete answers to all questions
- ▶ Appraisal(s) are a must for acquisition projects
- ▶ Preliminary design must be firm enough to generate a solid cost estimate
- ▶ Make sure to break budget details into design and construction costs (two distinct FYs)



Flax Pond, Yarmouth



PARC Application Tips

- ▶ Write your project description to answer the following:
 - ▶ Is this park in an EJ neighborhood?
 - ▶ Is this park a former brownfields site?
 - ▶ Is this site accessible to public transportation?
 - ▶ Is this a new park?
 - ▶ Is there water-based recreation offered?
 - ▶ Did my community complete enhanced outreach?
 - ▶ Do I have a partnership with a non-profit on this project?
 - ▶ Will there be environmental education on site?
 - ▶ How does this project address my OSRP's goals, objectives, or action plan items?
-



LAND Grant

- ▶ **Land acquisition:** - **Fee simple**
- **Conservation Restriction**
- ▶ Conservation Commission control
- ▶ For conservation & passive recreation
- ▶ Cooperate! many communities work closely with non-profits



Shrine of Our Lady of LaSalette, Attleboro



LAND Grant

- ▶ **Appraisal**
 - ▶ **TWO appraisals if the first is >\$750,000**
- ▶ Maps
 - ▶ Natural resources and landscape context
- ▶ Budget
 - ▶ Itemize your anticipated expenses
- ▶ Project narrative
- ▶ Natural Heritage & Historical Commission review



Most Competitive Projects

- ▶ Ecological resources
 - ▶ Habitat & biodiversity
 - ▶ Water
- ▶ Landscape level protection
 - ▶ links to existing protected open space
 - ▶ large
 - ▶ wildlife corridors
- ▶ Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) goals
- ▶ Public recreation
- ▶ Working lands
 - ▶ forests, farms
- ▶ Undevelopment (yes!)



Small towns: this LAND is your land, too!

**Conservation Appraisals & OSRPs for Small Communities
6,000 or fewer residents**

Appraisal: \$4,000

Open Space & Recreation Plan: \$15,000

80% reimbursement

Non-competitive, rolling funding

Separate application due
Wednesday, May 30, 2012



Pelham, Well Away Farm

Must apply to LAND to receive reimbursement

Reimbursement not contingent upon getting LAND award

Also from DCS...

▶ **Conservation Partnership grant**

For: non-profits

Max award: \$85,000

To: acquire land/CRs

Application due: July 16

▶ **Drinking Water Supply Protection grant**

For: municipal water departments/non-profit public water suppliers

To: acquire land/CRs

Max award: \$400,000

Application due: late summer/early fall

▶ **Landscape Partnership grant**

For: municipal conservation commissions, water departments, non-profits, and state and federal agencies

To: acquire 500+ acres of land/CRs/APRs

Max award: \$4,000,000 (probably)

Application due: late summer/early fall



Contact Information

Contact Melissa for PARC questions at (617) 626-1171 or
melissa.cryan@state.ma.us

Contact Celia for LAND questions at (617) 626-1187 or
celia.riechel@state.ma.us

Visit DCS online at www.mass.gov/eea/dcs-grants

**Remember – open question period ends on June 29, 2012,
so get your questions answered before then**

